

WORD ON THE STREET  
PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT  
AND SAFETY OF ROADWAYS

DOES SPRING HAVE YOU THINKING about landscaping? Gardening and landscaping not only enhance the aesthetic value of properties, but also provide needed screening and privacy.

In planning your landscaping projects, keep in mind that the City prohibits placing landscaping materials and construction dumpsters in the street right-of-way. This ordinance maintains roadway safety, protects the environment and allows staff to perform maintenance activities such as sweeping and sealcoating.



**Prevent runoff: Properly cover landscaping material and store it off the public street and boulevard.**

To help protect and enhance the environment and safety of roadways:

- Make sure delivery companies drop off dumpsters and all materials directly onto your property. Use plywood or other pads to prevent driveway damage.
- Cover dirt and landscape material to prevent polluted runoff from leaving driveways and entering storm sewers.
- Report nuisance or ordinance violations at 952-563-4913.

IS A PERMIT OR ENCROACHMENT  
AGREEMENT REQUIRED?

Projects that require work in the right-of-way may require a permit or encroachment agreement from the City. The right-of-way width varies, depending on each street, but generally includes 12 - 15 feet of land behind the curb or the pavement edge of the boulevard you maintain.

In general, public street rights-of way and clear-view triangles at corners should be kept free of plantings. Some projects require City authorization: new or modified driveway approaches, curbs and gutters, sidewalks and permanent structures such as retaining walls, flagpoles, fences and monuments. For more information, call Engineering at 952-563-4870.

RECYCLING STATS

THE SOUTH HENNEPIN RECYCLING and Problem Waste Drop-off Center, 1400 W. 96th St, recycled 200,000 gallons of paint, 35,000 gallons of used oil, 675 tons of consumer electronics and 1.2 million tons of recyclables in 2006.

RIGHT ON TARGET  
BLOOMINGTON FIRST IN SHOOTING COMPETITION

BLOOMINGTON POLICE OFFICER JARED Taylor, along with Pete Dahl, Taylor's former partner from the Rice County Sheriff's Office, took first place for Team Bloomington in an elite shooting competition.

Sixty-four officers from around the country competed at the 5.11 Challenge held in Montana. Officers competed in handgun, shotgun and rifle courses and were scored on speed and accuracy.

One of the prizes for first place included \$100,000 in equipment. Two hundred gear bags filled with uniforms, holsters, shooting eyewear and gloves were given to Bloomington's police officers. The event sponsors also donated gear bags to officers on the Gulf Coast who suffered from Hurricane Katrina.

According to Taylor, who has been with the BPD since August 2006, the program is held each year to give back to police officers.

"The 5.11 Challenge was one of the greatest experiences in my law enforcement career," he said. "The event showed an appreciation for police officers and what we do. It was also amazing to get to know other officers from around the country."

Note: In rock climbing, 5.11 is a measurement denoting a high degree of difficulty.



**Bloomington Police Officer Jared Taylor, right, with Rice County Sheriff's Deputy Pete Dahl.**

ONGOING PRAIRIE MAINTENANCE  
BURNING PRODUCES MORE FLOWERS AND SEEDS



**"Why does the City burn areas around parks and ponds in the spring?" – A Bloomington resident**

CONTROLLED BURNS ARE PART OF THE CITY'S PRAIRIE maintenance program. Plants grow taller and produce more flowers and seeds following a burn because prairies are fire-dependent ecosystems. Warmer soil favors prairie plants over cool-season invasive weeds. Fire also helps control unwanted trees and woody shrubs. For information, call Paul Edwardson at 952-563-8762.

BLOOMINGTON YESTERDAY

NATIONAL CONSERVATION AWARD – 1968



*Photo credit: Irwin D. Norling*

IN NOVEMBER 1963, PRIOR TO MANY ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTIONS THAT HAVE NOW BEEN implemented by local, state and federal governments, Councilmember John Malone requested that a natural resources commission be formed out of concern for Bloomington's natural environment. Headed by its first Chairperson Michael A. Bosanko, the commission was established in 1964.

Four years later, the National Wildlife Federation honored the commission with its National Conservation Organization Achievement Award, citing the commission's accomplishments in the inventory of the city's natural resources, pollution control in Nine Mile Creek and establishment of a 500-acre nature preserve. The leadership shown by these efforts has made Bloomington a more environmentally rich community today.

Bosanko, *right*, along with 1968 Commission Chairperson Roland V. Peterson, *left*, accepted the award from Texas Governor John B. Connally, *center*, at a ceremony in Houston.



ENHANCEMENT  
PROGRAM  
PRESERVES NEIGHBORHOODS

BLOOMINGTON'S PROGRAMS TO HELP maintain and improve neighborhood appearance have been in place since 1994. The importance of safe and well-maintained neighborhoods was again confirmed by comments from a recent community outreach process, in which residents say they want an increased focus on property maintenance, including enforcement of city codes.

The City's goal is to increase compliance with City ordinances and reduce complaints about code violations by keeping residents informed of City requirements, offering home improvement loans and enforcing compliance with the codes when violations occur.

In addition to citywide inspections conducted by Environmental Health, the Community Enhancement Program promotes concentrated education and enforcement of zoning regulations, nuisance abatement and property maintenance to address violations proactively before they become citizen complaints. The result is a greater compliance rate after the initial correction order, as compared to compliance with orders issued after a complaint was filed.

In 2006, the third phase of the Community Enhancement Program addressed specific blocks instead of entire neighborhoods, allowing for more thorough inspections and focusing on locations where most complaints occur. Of the 305 properties inspected in 2006, 60 percent were given correction orders. Currently, 6 percent, or 19 of the 305 homes inspected in 2006, have unresolved code violations. Most of these homes were granted extensions to complete work due to cold weather or participation in the Housing and Redevelopment Authority Neighborhood Loan Program. The CEP program will continue in another area in 2007.

For more information, call Environmental Health at 952-563-8934.

COMMERCIAL PROPERTIES



In 2007, the City begins a commercial nuisance program to systematically inspect all commercial properties in Bloomington. The goal is to ensure property maintenance, maintain property values and reduce future complaints. For information, call 952-563-8934.